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PART V

Bills introduced in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly

(To be translated into Gujarati and the translation to be published in the *Gujarat Government Gazette*. The date of publication to be reported.)

The following Bill is published with the consent of the Speaker given under the proviso to rule 127A of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly Rules:-

THE GUJARAT FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025.

GUJARAT BILL NO. 14 OF 2025.

A BILL

further to amend the Gujarat Fisheries Act, 2003.

It is hereby enacted in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows: -

1. (1) This Act may be called the Gujarat Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 2025.
- (2) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint.

Short title and commencement.

- Guj. 8 of 2003.** 2. In the Gujarat Fisheries Act, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”), in section 2, after clause (a), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely: -

Amendment of section 2 of Guj. 8 of 2003.

- (aa) "Aquaculture" means culturing / farming of fish, shrimp, prawn and seaweed, under controlled conditions in ponds, pens and enclosures, in fresh, saline or brackish water and such other activity, as declared by the State Government, by notification in the *Official Gazette*;
- (ab) "Aquaculture Business" means production / manufacture/ rendering, dealership / distribution, sale of aquaculture inputs, aquaculture equipment and aquaculture services, aquaculture harvest, aquaculture post-harvest operations and all other related activities;
- (ac) "Aquaculture Business Operations" means all the operations / activities undertaken for carrying out Aquaculture business;
- (ad) "Aquaculture Equipment" means devices, equipments, implements, tools etc. including accessories like aerators, air blowers, automatic feeders etc.; (ae) "Aquaculture Farm" means any place with water holding facility to do aquaculture;
- (af) "Aquaculture Farmers" means the person/firm/company undertaking aquaculture;
- (ag) "Aquaculture Harvest Operations" means the activities undertaken to harvest aquaculture produce;
- (ah) "Aquaculture inputs" means seed, feed, feed supplements, aqua chemicals, aqua products, medicines, all other materials that are used directly or in combination with others for doing aquaculture;
- (ai) "Aquaculture post-harvest operations" means any activity undertaken from harvest till it is sold to consumer including weighment, addition of ice, transport, pre-processing, processing, value addition, packaging, preservation, storage, cold chain, trade, marketing, export and all such activities;
- (aj) "Authority" means the Gujarat State Fisheries Harbour and Aquaculture Development Authority established under the chapter VI of this Act;

Amendment of heading of Chapter VI of Guj. 8 of 2003. 3. In the principal Act, in the heading of Chapter VI, for the words "FISHERIES TERMINAL AUTHORITY", the words "GUJARAT STATE FISHERIES HARBOUR AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY" shall be substituted.

Substitution of section 24 of Guj. 8 of 2003. 4. In the principal Act, for section 24, the following section shall be substituted, namely: -

Constitution and composition of Gujarat State Fisheries Harbour and Aquaculture Development Authority.

24 of 2005.

"24. (1) The State Government may, by order, constitute the Gujarat State Fisheries Harbour and Aquaculture Development Authority for such area as may be specified in the order to develop, maintain, manage and administer the fisheries harbour, fish landing jetties including any wharf, pier, dock and other landing place and their adjoining areas set apart by the Authority for repair yards, fuel and ice supply installation auction hall, fish processing plants, godowns and fish markets and to develop and administer the aquaculture and aquaculture business operations in the State of Gujarat excluding the environmental and other related aspects of aquaculture which were taken under the control of Coastal Aquaculture Authority as per the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005 and as amended from time to time.

(2) The Authority shall consist of the following members who shall be appointed by the State Government, namely :-

(i)	Cabinet Minister dealing with Fisheries Department, Government of Gujarat	Chairman
(ii)	Minister of State dealing with Fisheries Department, Government of Gujarat	Vice-chairman
(iii)	Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Revenue Department, Government of Gujarat	Member
(iv)	Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary (Irrigation and Water Supply), Narmada, Water Resources, Water Supply and Kalpasar Department, Government of Gujarat	Member
(v)	Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary (Fisheries), Agriculture, Farmers Welfare and Co-operation Department, Government of Gujarat	Member
(vi)	Secretary (Expenditure), Finance Department, Government of Gujarat	Member
(vii)	the Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman, Gujarat Maritime Board	Member
(viii)	the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of the Forest Force (PCCF and HoFF), Gandhinagar	Member
(ix)	the Principal Commissioner of Custom, Ahmedabad	Member
(x)	the Development Commissioner, Gandhinagar	Member
(xi)	the Managing Director, Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited	Member
(xii)	Convener and Chairman of State Level Banker's Committee	Member
(xiii)	the Managing Director, Gujarat Water Supply and Sewage Board	Member
(xiv)	the Commissioner of Food and Drug Control Administration (FDCA), Gandhinagar	Member
(xv)	the Vice-Chancellor, Kamdhenu University	Member
(xvi)	the Managing Director, Gujarat Fisheries Central Co-operative Association Ltd	Member
(xvii)	State Head of National Co-operative Development Corporation, Gandhinagar	Member
(xviii)	Representative of Marine Product Export Development Agency, Gujarat	Member
(xix)	Representative of Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA)	Member
(xx)	Representative of Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA)	Member

(xxi)	Representative of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)	Member
(xxii)	Representative of Export Inspection Agency (EIA), Gujarat	Member
(xxiii)	Three members from sea food export associations, shrimps farmers and boat owners nominated by the Government	Member
(xxiv)	Commissioner / Director of Fisheries, Gandhinagar.	Member-Secretary

- (3) (a) The State Government may constitute committees and sub-committees as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of duties and performance of the Authority under this Act;
- (b) The Authority shall have the power to co-opt as members of any committee appointed under clause (a) such other number of person who are not member of the Authority, as it may think fit;
- (c) The provisions of this Chapter shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the other provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder;
- (d) This Act shall be in conformity with the existing central Acts and in case of any contraventions, the existing central Acts shall prevail over this Act.”.

- 5.** In the principal Act, for section 25, the following section shall be substituted, namely: - **Substitution of section 25 of Guj. 8 of 2003.**

Powers and functions of Authority.

“**25. (1)** The Authority shall have the following powers, namely: -

- (a) initiate and conduct surveys and studies to ascertain the potential and problems in aquaculture of the State;
- (b) order to bring any service related to aquaculture and harbour under its jurisdiction by means of framing guidelines;
- (c) take up Research and Development Programmes, if need arises;
- (d) to promote training and conduct skill development / HRD programmes;
- (e) to collect market data on seafood exports and interpret it for the benefit of aqua farmers;
- (f) to inspect and audit any farm / hatchery / feed manufacturing unit / any other aquaculture or aquaculture business unit for compliance to the quality standards;
- (g) to enter and inspect physical facilities, raw materials, finished products, records of all aquaculture production, processing and distribution and sales units;
- (h) impose fines and penalties to any aquaculture production, processing and distribution and sales units in case of violations of the provisions of the Act;

- (i) constitute committee or sub committees as and when required for carrying out the functions of the authority in an effective manner;
 - (j) any other powers as per the rules made under this Act.
- (2) The Authority shall perform the following functions, namely: -
- (a) to develop, regulate and control the fisheries harbour terminals;
 - (b) to acquire land and purchase of equipment and machinery for fisheries harbour terminals;
 - (c) to provide safety measures for arrival and departure of the vessels and shore installations within the fisheries harbour terminals;
 - (d) to arrange quick and hygienic handling and disposal of fish within the fisheries harbour terminals;
 - (e) to keep the fisheries harbour area clean and free from pollution;
 - (f) to develop aquaculture in the State of Gujarat, with a view to increasing production, productivity, sustainability and profitability and to attract investments to promote aquaculture- based establishments and industries;
 - (g) to promote, monitor and regulate the production, distribution and sales of all aquaculture inputs like seed, feed, feed supplements, aqua chemicals, aqua products, medicines, equipment and implements etc. ensuring compliance with standards, policies, and environmental safeguards;
 - (h) to monitor, control and surveillance of diseases in aquaculture;
 - (i) in the event of crisis, the authority may take up and intervene into any activity in aquaculture sector to protect the interests of the sector in due consultations with the stakeholders;
 - (j) to achieve financial sustainability of the Authority;
 - (k) to render market intelligence service to aqua farmers;
 - (l) to promote transfer of technology in collaboration with national and international institutions;
 - (m) to manage, conserve, and develop, aquatic resources, and the aquaculture industry;
 - (n) to certify and promote all aquaculture inputs like seed, feed, feed ingredients, feed supplements, aqua chemicals, aqua products, medicines, implements, equipment, IT enabled products/services, aquaculture produce / seafood/ value added products /aquaculture ancillary services;

- (o) to assist in the establishment of aquaculture infrastructure, including hatcheries, feed mills, and processing facilities for value addition;
- (p) to promote scientific research, innovations, and adoption of advanced technologies for sustainable aquaculture development;
- (q) to support aquaculture farmers and entrepreneurs through training, capacity-building, and extension services;
- (r) to advise the State Government on policy matters and legislative frameworks related to aquaculture development;
- (s) to undertake any other activities necessary for the growth, regulation, and sustainability of aquaculture in the State;
- (t) to discharge any other function / activity as per the rules made under this Act;
- (u) to perform such other functions as may be entrusted by State Government;
- (v) to do such other functions as are necessary for efficient discharge of functions of the Authority.”.

Substitution of section 26 of 6. In the principal Act, for section 26, the following section shall be substituted, namely: -
Guj. 8 of 2003.

- Amount to be charged for providing services.**
- “**26.** (1) The Authority may charge such amount as may be fixed by the State Government from time to time, for providing services at the fishing harbour and for aquaculture.
- (2) The Authority shall establish and maintain its organizational structure, including the appointment of its Chairperson and members, as may be determined by the State Government.
- (3) The Authority shall oversee its financial management, including the preparation of budgets, allocation of funds, and supervision of payments, as may be determined by the State Government.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The State of Gujarat has a long coastline and vast inland and brackish water resources, making the Fisheries Sector a crucial Economic Activity for the State. The Gujarat Fisheries Act, 2003 was enacted to regulate fisheries activities under which provisions were made for the establishment and constitution of the Fisheries Terminal Division (FTD) to manage Fishing Harbours. However, since there are no provisions for the establishment of an Authority for comprehensive development of Fisheries Sector specifically for the development, management, and regulation of Aquaculture (shrimp farming and other forms of aquatic farming) under Fisheries Terminal Division, there is a need for the establishment, constitution, and functioning of an Aquaculture Authority. Therefore, it is proposed to establish the Gujarat State Fisheries Harbour and Aquaculture Development Authority to develop Fisheries Sector in a comprehensive manner including Aquaculture for integrated and specialized approach to fisheries governance.

To address this requirement, the Gujarat State Fisheries Harbour and Aquaculture Development Authority shall be established and mandated to regulate, promote, and manage Fishing Sector including Aquaculture-related activities. The State of Gujarat has immense

potential for freshwater and brackish water aquaculture and through the integration of Fishing Harbour management with aquaculture governance, the Authority shall ensure holistic and systematic development of Fisheries Sector in Gujarat. The Gujarat State Fisheries Harbour and Aquaculture Development Authority shall oversee the management, regulation, and development of the fisheries sector. Additionally, this Authority shall play a key role in licensing, quality control, infrastructure support, and financial assistance, ensuring a balanced and sustainable development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the State.

This Bill seeks to amend the said Act to achieve the aforesaid objects.

RAGHAVJIBHAI PATEL,

FINANCIAL MEMORENDUM

Clause 4 of the Bill seeks to empower the State Government to constitute the Gujarat State Fisheries Harbour and Aquaculture Development Authority for such area as may be specified in the order. Hence, the Bill, if enacted and brought into force would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State. However, at present, it is not possible to ascertain the exact amount of grant to be made available for such purpose.

RAGHAVJIBHAI PATEL,

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

This Bill provides for delegation of legislative power in the following respects: -

- Clause 1.** - Sub-clause (2) of this clause empowers the State Government to appoint, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, the date on which the Act shall come into force.
- Clause 2.** - New clause (aa) in section 2 of the Act proposed to be inserted by this clause empowers the State Government to declare, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, any other activities as an Aquaculture.

The delegation of legislative power as aforesaid is necessary and is of normal character.

Dated the 24th March, 2025.

RAGHAVJIBHAI PATEL.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Gujarat,

K. M. LALA,

Gandhinagar,
Dated the 24th March, 2025.

Secretary to the Government of Gujarat,
Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Department.

